

## Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 251105Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5056

INFO CDR JCRC NKP RTAFB THAI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5173

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH LPF LEADER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT RE  
RELEASE OF EMMET KAY AND ARTICLE IN IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL  
REGARDING MIAS

REF: VIENTIANE 5062

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR DISCUSSION  
WITH PHOUMI VONGVICHIT JULY 25, I RAISED TIMING AND  
MODALITIES OF RELEASE OF CAPTURED CASI PILOT EMMET  
KAY. PHOUMI CONFIRMED WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME AT MEETING  
JULY 19 (REFTEL) THAT KAY IS WELL IN SAM NUEA AND WILL  
BE RELEASED THROUGH LAOS SOMETIME AFTER IMPLEMENTING  
PROTOCOL HAS BEEN SIGNED IN VIENTIANE. HE THOUGHT KAY  
WOULD BE RELEASED EITHER AT SAM NEUA, PLAIN OF JARS OR  
IN VIENTIANE BUT NOT REPEAT NOT IN HANOI. WHEN I PRESSED  
HIM ON HOW LONG AFTER SIGNING OF PROTOCOL KAY WOULD  
BE RELEASED, HE SAID THAT JOINT LAO MILITARY COMMISSION  
WOULD HAVE TO BE FORMED FIRST BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD  
RECOMMENDED TO SAM NEUA KAY'S RELEASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. I THEN REITERATED OUR GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE  
EXPLOITATION OF EMMET KAY BY RADIO SAM NEUA FOR  
PROPAGANDA PURPOSES. I POINTED OUT THAT SIMILAR  
PRACTICES AND BAD TREATMENT OF OUR PWS BY THE NORTH  
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VIETNAMESE HAD PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE OPPOSITION

WITHIN US PUBLIC TO ASSISTING IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH VIETNAM. SINCE PHOUMI STRESSED THE "NATIONAL CHARACTER" OF THE PATHET LAO MOVEMENT, I STRONGLY URGED PATHET LAO NOT TO PURSUE SAME COURSE AS HAD NORTH VIETNAMESE. PHOUMI REPLIED THAT HE HAD CABLED SAM NEUA AGAIN AFTER MY DISCUSSION WITH HIM JULY 23 TO CALL SOUPHANOUVONG'S ATTENTION TO OUR DEMARCHE AND THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE SAM NEUA HAS NOT BROADCAST ANY FURTHER STATEMENTS ABOUT, OR FROM EMMET KAY SINCE THAT DATE. I SAID THAT I WOULD WATCH FBIS CLOSELY AND WOULD LET HIM KNOW WHETHER RADIO SAM NEUA CONTINUED TO BROADCAST SUCH ITEMS. (COMMENT: PHOUMI WAS CLEARLY TRYING TO SHOW HIS GOOD FAITH IN ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN A PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENTIANE AND TO DISCOURAGE SAM ENUA FROM TAKING ACTIONS AT THIS STAGE WHICH WOULD ALIENATE THE UNITED STATES. END COMMENT)

3. I THEN RAISED WITH HIM AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF INCLUDING IN THE PROTOCOL UNDER NEGOTIATION AN ARTICLE CONCERNING MIAS. I STRESSED THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR THE UNITED STATES AND SINCE LPF ALWAYS CLAIMED THAT IT WAS RECEPTIVE TO "HUMANITARIAN" ARGUMENTS, I URGED HIM TO INCLUDE AS DETAILED AN ARTICLE AS POSSIBLE ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES TO RESOLVE THE FATE OF THOSE MISSING IN ACTION IN LAOS. I OPINED THAT INCLUSION OF SUCH AN ARTICLE WAS PROBABLY OF CONSIDERABLY LESS IMPORTANCE TO THE LPF THAN IT WAS TO USG, BUT SINCE PHOUMI HAD REPEATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS LPF'S DESIRE TO SHOW ITS GOOD FAITH TOWARD THE USG, I THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE IN PART BY GIVING DETAILED TREATMENT TO THE MIA PROBLEM IN THE PROTOCOL UNDER NEGOTIATION. PHOUMI SAID HE WOULD CONVEY MY VIEWS TO SAM NEUA BUT COULD ALREADY ASSURE ME THAT MIA PROBLEM WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROTOCOL.

4. FOR THE FIRST TIME, PHOUMI ALSO TALKED ABOUT PRISONERS OTHER THAN AMERICANS HELD BY LPF WHO WOULD BE RELEASED AFTER SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOL. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, LPF HOLD MANY THAIS. I REPLIED THAT WHILE I CONFIDENTIAL

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COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THE THAIS, I THOUGHT THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE RELEASE OF THAI PRISONERS WAS HANDLED WOULD HAVE IMPACT ON RTG ATTITUDE TOWARD COALITION GOVERNMENT. I THEREFORE THOUGHT THAT WHEN TIME CAME TO RELEASE THAI CAPTIVES, IT SHOULD BE DONE WITHOUT PROPAGANDA AND AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.  
DEAN

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